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A SERMON SERIES IN JAMES

UNDIVIDED

Living Out the Shema

One Lord. All of us.

James 4:1–12

THE CONFLICT BENEATH THE CONFLICT

How do I treat people
when I don't get
my way?

THE SHEMA

Deuteronomy 6:4–5

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, **the LORD is one.**

5 Love the LORD your God with **all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.**

WHOLEHEARTED LOVE

Loving God with **all of me**
includes the part of me
that **wants its own way**

One Lord. All of us.

THE DESIRES BENEATH OUR ARGUMENTS

James 4:1–3

1 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from **your desires that battle within you**?

2 You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God.

3 When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

DESIRE AND CONFLICT

When a desire becomes a demand

A desire "I want to be heard."

A demand "I won't listen
until you listen to me."

What do I do when I don't get what I want?

DIVIDED ALLEGIANCE

James 4:4–5

4 You adulterous people, don't you know that **friendship with the world** means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us?

WHAT RULES THE HEART

I can be right about
the issue
and still treat
someone wrong

THE TURNING POINT

James 4:6

6 But he gives us **more grace**. That is why Scripture says:

“God opposes the proud
but shows **favor to the humble.**”

GRACE AND CHANGE

What am I **still**
defending
that Jesus is asking me
to change?

COMING NEAR

James 4:7–8

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

THE HONEST WORK OF REPENTANCE

James 4:9–10

9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.

10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

HUMILITY AND REPAIR

Owning the harm

Two experiments. 755 participants.

Taking responsibility and offering repair
were among the strongest apology elements.

“I was wrong. What can I do to make this right?”

Lewicki, Polin & Lount (2016), Negotiation and Conflict Management Research

ONE LAWGIVER AND JUDGE

James 4:11–12

11 Brothers and sisters, **do not slander one another**. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.

12 There is only **one Lawgiver and Judge**, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

JESUS AND THE SHEMA

**The people closest to me
should see **more of Jesus**
as I grow**

31 The second is this: ‘**Love your neighbor as yourself.**’ There is no commandment greater than these.

Mark 12:31 NIV

THIS WEEK

Am I becoming more like Jesus?

What am I trying to control?

Who needs an honest apology from me?

What will I do differently in my next conflict?

Do those closest to me see more of Jesus?